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August [illegible] 1976

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Dear Mr. Bonker:

Thank you for your letter of August 4 regarding the disappearance of Argentine filmmaker Raymundo Gleyzer.

We have queried our Embassy in Buenos Aires, which reports that Mr. Gleyzer was seized and taken from his home in Buenos Aires on May 27. In early June his mother filed a petition of habeas corpus on his behalf in the criminal court of first instance in Buenos Aires. We have heard a report, which we cannot confirm, that another Argentine citizen, recently released from detention, claims to have been together with Mr. Gleyzer in prison. We have been unable to obtain any further information about Mr. Gleyzer's situation, but are continuing our efforts.

With respect to your comment that the Argentine Government tacitly permits right wing "death squads" to operate with impunity, that is a charge that has been made. The Argentine Government, however, states that it deplores the activities of all vigilante groups and is trying to bring violence perpetrated by the right and left under control.

We have discussed our concern over the escalating pattern of violence and some of its tragic consequences with high-level Argentine officials both in Washington and Buenos Aires, and we have informed the Argentine Government of the nature and level of concern which is being expressed in the United States Congress and by private American citizens.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Clearances:
ARA:ECA:RWZimmermann
ARA:HARyan
ARA:GLister
H:EBlack

The Honorable
Don Bonker,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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